	Case 5:14-cv-00207-DMG-SP Document 1 Filed 02/03/14 Page 1 of 13 Page ID#	:1					
	FILED						
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11							
12							
13	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT						
14	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA						
15	ESTATE OF SONNY JOSEPH, MAZON, deceased, by his mother ) Case No. EDCV14-207-JGB (DTBL)						
16	and successor in interest, Lavenia ) COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES   Mazon, and LAVENIA MAZON. ) AND DEMAND FOR JURY						
17	individually, TRIAL						
18	Plaintiffs, )						
19	VS.						
20	DR. KHAN, ) and DOES 1-10,						
21	Defendants.						
22	)						
23	Plaintiffs allege:						
24	JURISDICTION  1. III : 1 : Community of the second in home what programme to 42 II S C						
25	1. This is a lawsuit for money damages and is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C.						
26	§ 1983, et seq., and the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States						
27							
28	rights by defendant Dr. Khan, a psychiatrist employed by the County of Riverside						
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who works in the Riverside County Jail, including the Larry Smith Detention Facility. Jurisdiction is founded on 28 U.S.C. Section 1331 and 1343 and the aforementioned statutory and Constitutional provisions. The unlawful acts and practices alleged herein occurred in the County of Riverside, California, which is within this judicial district.

#### PARTIES AND GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 2. Plaintiff Lavenia Mazon is a resident of the County of Riverside, State of California. Plaintiffs' decedent, Sonny Joseph Mazon, was a resident of the County of Riverside, State of California at the time of his death on February 4, 2012.
- 3. Plaintiff Lavenia Mazon is the mother of Plaintiffs' decedent, Sonny Joseph Mazon, and is his successor-in-interest. Plaintiff Lavenia Mazon brings this action as an individual on her own behalf and on behalf of Plaintiff Estate of Sonny Joseph Mazon, deceased, in her representative capacity as successor-in-interest to decedent Sonny Joseph Mazon.
- 4. Decedent Sonny Joseph Mazon died intestate in the city of Palm Springs, County of Riverside, State of California. No special administrator or personal representative of the Estate of Sonny Joseph Mazon has been appointed by any court.
- 5. The plaintiffs' decedent is Sonny Joseph Mazon, who, at the time of his death on February 4, 2012, was a 24 year old resident of the County of Riverside, California. Sonny Mazon was a United States Army veteran, having served in the Afghanistan war with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. At the time of his death, Sonny Joseph Mazon was single and had no children.
- 6. At all times relevant hereto, defendant Dr. Khan was an employee and/or agent of the County of Riverside. Dr. Khan is sued individually and in his capacity as an employee or agent of the County of Riverside.
  - 7. Defendant Dr. Khan and DOES 1-10 performed all of the herein alleged

- 8. The true names or capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise, of defendants named herein as DOES 1 through 10, are unknown to Plaintiffs, who therefore sue said defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs will amend this complaint to show the unknown defendants' true names and capacities when the same have been ascertained. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that all defendants sued herein as DOES are in some manner responsible for the acts herein alleged.
- 9. Each of the acts of the individually named defendant and DOES 1 through 10, were done by them by under the color and pretense of the statutes, ordinances, regulations, customs and usages of the State of California. Said defendants were the servants, agents and employees of defendant County of Riverside, and in doing the acts hereinafter described, acted within the course and scope of their employment.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 10. Plaintiff's decedent, Sonny Joseph Mazon, was in the United States Army for four years and was honorably discharged in late 2010. He served 15 months in combat in Afghanistan with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. During his service in Afghanistan Mr. Mazon suffered a traumatic brain injury from an improvised explosive device, as well as severe psychological injuries due to his experiences in combat.
- 11. After his discharge from the Army Mr. Mazon suffered significant psychological deficits and severe post traumatic stress disorder, for which he was treated at the Loma Linda Veterans Administration Hospital. He attempted suicide on multiple occasions.
- 12. On June 21, 2011, Mr. Mazon was arrested after a traffic accident where he left the scene. Mr. Mazon was located by police in his bathtub with a knife, threatening to slash his wrists. He was subdued, arrested and incarcerated at

the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility which is operated by defendant County of Riverside and its sheriff's department. While in custody Mr. Mazon was placed on suicide watch in a safety cell. He was eventually released from custody.

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-7.

- 13. On January 25, 2012, Mr. Mazon was arrested for felony charges after a domestic altereation at his home in Riverside County. He was again booked into the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility and placed on suicide watch in a safety cell after exhibiting clear indications that he was suicidal.
- 14. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Mr. Mazon was released on January 27, 2012 and re-arrested that same day by San Jacinto/Riverside County sheriff's deputies and re-booked into the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility. Plaintiffs are further informed and believe that during the booking process on January 28, 2012 Mr. Mazon attempted to stab himself with a pen. Force was required to subdue him. Clearly suicidal, Mr. Mazon was placed in a safety cell, on suicide watch.
- 15. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that less than 24 hours later Mr. Mazon was removed from the safety cell and placed alone in a regular holding cell which contained a telephone and telephone cord. Sheriff's deputies responsible for classification and housing of inmates were told that by a mental health worker, Daniel Matloff, that Mr. Mazon was no longer suicidal and should be removed from the safety cell. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, based upon the testimony of Mr. Matloff, that Mr. Matloff consulted defendant Dr. Khan, the on-duty jail psychiatrist, who agreed with him and approved the removal of Mr. Mazon from the safety cell. Dr. Khan did so despite the fact that 1) he never saw or evaluated Mr. Mazon, 2) another jail psychiatrist, Dr. Patel, *had* evaluated Mr. Mazon and concluded he was suicidal and should remain in a safety cell, and 3) Mr. Mazon never received medications that Dr. Patel ordered the day before. Approximately one hour after being removed from the safety cell and being placed alone in a regular holding cell that contained a telephone, Mr. Mazon was discovered

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27 28 unresponsive in his cell with the telephone cord wrapped around his neck in an apparent suicide attempt. Paramedics were called and Mr. Mazon was transported to Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs where he was in a coma for several days. He never regained consciousness and died on February 4, 2012.

- 16. Between January 29, 2012 and February 1, 2012, Mr. Mazon's family attempted to locate him by repeatedly calling the Riverside Sheriff's Department. They were not told of his injuries and hospitalization. They were told he could not be visited. Finally, on February 1, 2012, family members learned from the Banning Police Department that Mr. Mazon had been injured and was hospitalized at the Desert Regional Medical Center. They immediately traveled to the hospital to see him. After first being denied access to Mr. Mazon, family members were finally able to see him. They found him in a coma, on life support. Three days later, on February 4, 2012, Mr. Mazon died from his injuries.
- 17. Defendant Dr. Khan was deliberately indifferent to Mr. Mazon's clear mental illness and serious medical needs, by failing to see and evaluate him, failing to consult with Dr. Patel, failing to insure he received the medications prescribed by Dr. Patel, and yet approving his removal from the safety cell. This constituted deliberate indifference to Mr. Mazon's serious medical needs and was the proximate cause of Mr. Mazon's death.

### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

[42 U.S.C. § 1983 Constitutional Violations - Plaintiff Estate of Sonny Joseph Mazon Against Defendants Dr. Khan]

- 18. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 17 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 19. Sonny Joseph Mazon had a right under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution to be free from excessive punishment and deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs by employees or agents of governmental

entities, including defendant Dr. Khan, a Riverside County jail psychiatrist. Mr. Mazon also had a right to due process of law and equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment.

- 20. When Sonny Mazon was under the care and custody of Mr. Matloff and Dr. Khan, Defendant Dr. Khan acted with deliberate indifference to Sonny Mazon's serious medical needs and his known and recognized constitutional rights to due process, equal protection, bodily integrity and his right to be free from excessive punishment and deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Defendant Dr. Khan knew that Mr. Mazon was severely mentally ill and suicidal, and had received no treatment for his illness. Despite this knowledge, Dr. Khan approved and allowed Mr. Mazon to be removed from a safety cell and placed alone in a regular cell with a telephone cord that could easily be used to commit suicide. This was a clear violation of all proper protocols for suicidal inmates, constituted deliberate indifference to Mr. Mazon's serious medical needs as described above and was the proximate cause of Mr. Mazon's suicide and death.
- 22. As a result of Defendants' deprivation of Sonny Mazon's constitutional rights as described above, plaintiff Estate of Sonny Joseph Mazon has incurred damages, including physical injuries to and the eventual death of Plaintiffs' decedent, Sonny Joseph Mazon. Accordingly, Plaintiff Estate of Sonny Joseph Mazon is entitled to general and compensatory damages in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 23. The aforesaid acts and omissions of defendants Dr. Khan were done recklessly and/or with callous indifference to Sonny Joseph Mazon's health, safety and constitutional rights, therefore entitling Plaintiffs' to punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

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[42 U.S.C. § 1983 Constitutional Violations By Plaintiff Lavenia Mazon, Individually, Against Defendant Dr. Khan]

- 24. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 23 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 25. As a result of the acts alleged above, particularly the deliberate indifference to Sonny Joseph Mazon's medical needs, his right to due process of law and his right against unreasonable seizures, Defendant Dr. Khan proximately caused severe injuries to and the eventual death by suicide of Sonny Joseph Mazon.
- 26. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Defendant Dr. Khan knew that Sonny Mazon was severely mentally ill and suicidal. Despite this knowledge, Dr. Khan failed to properly monitor, evaluate and treat Sonny Mazon. Nevertheless, Sonny Mazon was removed from a safety cell and placed alone in a regular cell with a telephone cord that could easily be used to commit suicide. This was a clear violation of all proper protocols for suicidal inmates, constituted deliberate indifference to Mr. Mazon's serious medical needs and was also a proximate cause of Mr. Mazon's suicide and death.
- 27. As a result of Defendants' deprivation of Sonny Mazon's constitutional rights as described above, Defendant Dr. Khan deprived Plaintiff Lavenia Mazon of her constitutionally protected due process right to the love, support, affection and companionship of her son, in violation of Plaintiff Lavenia Mazon's constitutional rights as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, particularly the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
- 28. The acts of defendants and each of them as described above also amounted to recklessness which caused injury and ultimately death to Sonny Joseph Mazon, thus causing a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment rights of

Plaintiff Lavenia Mazon. Said acts proximately caused the death of plaintiffs' decedent, entitling Plaintiff Lavenia Mazon to general and compensatory damages pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 1983 et seq. in an amount to be proven at trial.

29. The aforesaid acts and omissions of defendant Dr. Khan were done recklessly and/or with callous indifference to Sonny Joseph Mazon's health, safety and constitutional rights, therefore entitling Plaintiffs' to punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

[Negligence/Wrongful Death under California Law]

- 30. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 29 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 31. By the acts alleged above, Defendant Dr. Khan was negligent and breached his duty of due care owed to Plaintiffs and their decedent, Sonny Mazon, thereby causing the injuries and damages described in the Factual Allegations, including the suicide of, injuries to, and wrongful death of Sonny Joseph Mazon, as described above.
- 32. As a result of the negligence described above, Plaintiff Lavenia Mazon is entitled to damages under California law from defendant Dr. Khan for the wrongful death of her son, including, but not limited to, loss of love, companionship, comfort, affection, society, moral support, financial support, services, advice, training and funeral expenses. Plaintiff Lavenia Mazon is therefore entitled to said general and compensatory damages in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 33. By the acts alleged herein, including the negligence of defendant Dr. Khan as described above, defendant Dr. Khan legally caused injury to, and the death of, plaintiffs' decedent Sonny Joseph Mazon, causing the Estate of Sonny Joseph Mazon to incur funeral expenses, medical bills, property loss and other

damages, entitling the Estate of Sonny Joseph Mazon to damages in an amount to be proven at trial, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 377.30. PRAYER FOR RELIEF WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against defendants and each of them as follows: 1. For general and compensatory damages against defendants and each of them in an amount to be proven at trial; 2. For exemplary and punitive damages against defendant Dr. Khan only, in an amount to be proven at trial; 3. For costs of suit herein, including reasonable attorneys fees; and, 4. For such other relief as the Court deems proper. Dated: February 3, 2014 JOSEPH H. JOW IV Attorney for Plaintiff Plaintiffs hereby demand a jury trial in this action Dated: February 3, 2014 Attorney for Plaintiffs 

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

### NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES JUDGES

This o	case has been assi	igned to District Judge	Jesus G. Ber	nal and the assigned		
Magistrate Ju	idge is	David T. Bristow	·			
	The case nun	nber on all documents filed	with the Court shoul	d read as follows:		
		EDCV14-00207	-JGB (DTBx)			
		Order 05-07 of the United Sta ge has been designated to he				
All di	scovery related n	notions should be noticed or	n the calendar of the	Magistrate Judge.		
			Clerk, U. S. Di	strict Court		
F	ebruary 3, 2014		By MDAVIS			
	Date	_	Deputy Clerk			
		NOTICE TO	COUNSEL			
		erved with the summons and the served on all plaintiffs).	l complaint on all def	fendants (if a removal action is		
Subsequent	documents mus	t be filed at the following lo	ocation:			
312 N	ern Division I. Spring Street, G- ngeles, CA 90012	Southern Division  8 411 West Fourth Santa Ana, CA 92	St., Ste 1053	Eastern Division 3470 Twelfth Street, Room 134 Riverside, CA 92501		
Failure to fil	le at the proper l	ocation will result in your o	documents being re	turned to you.		

### Case 5:14-cv-0020NITED/STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL 2/037RICT OF PARISTONIA 13 Page ID #:11

		_	/IL CO	VER SHEET		•				
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS ( CI	heck box if you are rep	presenting yourself	)	DEFENDANTS	(	Check box if you are r	epresenting yourself [ ]			
ESTATE OF SONNY JOSEPH interest, Lavenia Mazon, ar	MAZON, deceased, by h	is mother and successor i vidually	ń	DR. Khan, and DOE	S 1-1	0				
(b) County of Residen	ce of First Listed Pla	intiff RIVERSIDE		County of Residence of First Listed Defendant						
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	ASES)			(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA						
(c) Attorneys (Firm Nan representing yourself, p	ne, Address and Telephorovide the same inforr	one Number) If you are		Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number) If you are representing yourself, provide the same information.						
THE LAW FIRM OF JOSEPH One World Trade Center, St Long Beach, CA 90831		0840								
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an X in	one box only.)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P	RIN	CIPAL PARTIES-For I	Diversity Cases Only			
		• •	(P	II. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES-For Diversity Cases Only  (Place an X in one box for plaintiff and one for defendant)  PTF DEF DEF						
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2. U.S. Government		(Indicate Citizenship	Citizen	or Subject of a		of Business in A				
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460 Deportation	Enforcement of Judgment	315 Airplane Product Liability	1	371 Truth in Lending		540 Mandamus/Other	863 DIWC/DIWW (405 (g))			
470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Org.	☐ 151 Medicare Act	320 Assault, Libel &		380 Other Personal Property Damage		550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition	864 SSID Title XVI			
480 Consumer Credit	152 Recovery of	Slander 330 Fed. Employers'		85 Property Damage		560 Civil Detainee	865 RSI (405 (g))			
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CV-71 (11/13)		CIV	IL COVE	R SHEET `			Page 1 of 3			

# Case 5:14-cv-0020NHPDISTATES DISTRICTICOURT, CENTRAL 2013 PAGE ID #:12 CIVIL COVER SHEET

**VIII. VENUE**: Your answers to the questions below will determine the division of the Court to which this case will most likely be initially assigned. This initial assignment is subject to change, in accordance with the Court's General Orders, upon review by the Court of your Complaint or Notice of Removal.

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box to the right that applies, enter the corresponding division in response to		☐ Orange					Southern		
Question D, below, and skip to Section IX.		Riverside or San Bernardino				Eastern			
Question B: Is the United States, or one	e of		Y AND WOLLD	arana ka		Service and the	Sibnesia V Bart Burayan	Richigha on the college	
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If "no," go to Question C. If "yes," check th	ne 🔲 I	Los Angeles		1	s Angeles	2000	Western		
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majority of plaintiffs reside: Indicate the location in which a	<u> </u>			]	<u> </u>		$\Box$	<del></del>	
majority of defendants reside: Indicate the location in which a majority of claims arose:	$\overline{\Box}$			]	$\square$		<u> </u>		
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C.1. Is either of the following true? If so	. check ti	ne one that applies:	C 2 . Ic.	oithar ai	ithe following two 2 If a			<b>些</b> 国的特别所谓 1995年	
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only 1 answer in Column C and n	s in Column D	only 1 answer in Column D and no answers in Column C							
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CV-71 (11/13) CIVIL COVER SHEET Page 2 of 3

### Case 5:14-cv-00 DNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL CONSTRUCTOR PAGE OF PAGE

		Civil CO Fait Differi		
IX(a). IDENTICAL CAS	SES: Has this ag	ction been previously filed in this court and dismissed, remanded or closed?	× NO	YES
If yes, list case num	ber(s):	·		
IX(b). RELATED CASE	S: Have any cas	ses been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case?	☐ NO	× YES
If yes, list case numl	per(s): EDCV12	-2240-DMG (SPx)		
Civil cases are deemed	related if a previo	ously filed case and the present case:		-
(Check all boxes that app	ly) 🔀 A. Arise	from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or		
	X B. Call fo	or determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact	; or	
	X C. For o	ther reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or		
	D. Invol	ve the same patent, trademark or copyright, and one of the factors identified above in a,	b or c also is pre	sent.
outer papers as reduited by	The CV-71 (JS-44)	Civil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement oproved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required purpose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instruc	the filing and se	rvice of pleadings or
			tions, see separat	e instructions sheet).
Key to Statistical codes relati	ing to Social Secu	rity Cases:		
Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action		
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))	Security Act, as a of services under	mended. Also, the program.
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Heal	th and Safety Act	of 1969. (30 U.S.C.

Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))

CV-71 (11/13)